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Dear Colleagues

As the new fiscal year begins, we're all anxiously awaiting the 2006-07 statewide performance results. As soon as the final data are analyzed, we will let you know how Kentucky performed as a state. To continue refocusing on performance, I will report statewide and regional performance levels to you on a quarterly basis. Also, remember to run your county performance reports on a regular basis to keep your finger on the pulse of your program.

Even though we are entering a transition year, we are all well aware that we must refocus our time and energy on helping our students increase their academic skills, whether in the classroom, online or in the workplace. This transition year is critical. It is our chance to show that the Kentucky Adult Education System can and will reverse declining achievement trends. Although there are no sanctions, it is not a year to slow down, but to speed up implementation of new strategies that will show strong results by this time next year.

Once again, I want to remind you of another performance-related issue – the entering of data in a timely manner. KYAE policy requires that programs submit student data by the 10th of each month for the previous month. Keep in mind that as KYAE evaluates county performance, our first step is to look at AERIN data. It's in your program's best interest to make sure data are as up to date as possible because your data are one way we communicate with each other.

During the May regional meetings, in which we introduced the [New Framework for Adult Education](#), we talked about KYAE's GED goal as set by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The statewide goal for 2007-08 is 10,631. Several providers asked us to let them know their county's share of the statewide goal. This information for your county will be available on AERIN. Please remember that, at this point, the county numbers are targets to shoot for, not set goals.

KYAE staff have been working very hard on the upcoming KYAE Regional Conferences scheduled for August and

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September in Louisville, Lexington and Bowling Green. There will be many sessions on topics to kick off the [New Framework for Adult Education](#), including managed enrollment, using data for program improvement, learning disabilities, GED testing, family literacy, assessments, learning styles and teaching strategies for reading, writing and math. We will make sure you can ask or submit questions on any topic. We'll share answers with you and the whole field. All questions are welcomed! Don't forget to register online on [KYAE's Web site](#).

I look forward to seeing you in Louisville, Lexington and Bowling Green!

Sincerely,

Sarah Hindman Hawker

Contestants needed

We're looking for game show fans to join our own "Alex Trebek" in "Adult Ed Jeopardy" during the closing luncheon at the upcoming Regional Conferences. If you would like to be a contestant, please contact Sandra.Kestner@ky.gov. This will be fun!

Curriculum and Instruction staff

In support of the [New Framework for Adult Education](#) and renewed focus on quality student outcomes, KYAE has created a Curriculum and Instruction team staffed by Meryl Becker-Prezocki, senior associate, and Gayle Box, associate. Erika Larson, KYAE's distance learning associate for nearly three years, also joins the new team. They will provide expertise in developing and/or implementing key areas of the New Framework and will focus on content standards, GED for college prep, Developmental Education Task Force recommendations, learning disabilities, increased learning gains and distance learning.

Meryl comes to KYAE from the Jefferson County Adult Education Program where she was an instructor and Ahrens Learning Center coordinator. She has 30 years of teaching and leadership experience in education, including a master's degree in education from Illinois State University, Rank 1 certification in exceptional child education and certification for moderate and severe disabilities from the University of Louisville. She has developed curriculum in all primary adult education content areas and has expertise in instruction and assessment of adults with learning disabilities and alternate learning styles. She has been delivering professional development in adult learning disabilities to adult education teachers for five years. Meryl is available at (502) 573-5114, ext. 215, and Meryl.Becker-Prezocki@ky.gov.

Gayle joins KYAE from the Perry County Adult Education Program. Gayle earned a master's degree in education from Texas State University. She led a Perry County program improvement initiative that was very successful. She has 20 years teaching experience and has served as the Perry County lead instructor for five years. Her work experience includes curriculum development and establishment of a college preparation course for transitioning adult education students to postsecondary education. Gayle has been active in state-level activities and many of you have already worked with her. Gayle is available at (502) 573-5114, ext. 353, and Gayle.Box@ky.gov.

KYAE is delighted to have two such well-qualified and experienced adult educators joining our staff!

PD funding

KYAE has updated the PD allocation formula to be calculated on a percentage of the core services grant. County allocations, which will be part of the 2007-08 contracts, are posted on the [KYAE Web site](#). Most programs will receive an increased PD allocation to allow them to access PD necessary to support quality student outcomes. For fiscal year 2007-08 only, programs not receiving an increase based on this new calculation will receive a PD allocation equal to the FY 06-07 amount.



PD survey

Thank you to everyone who has completed KYAE's online PD survey. If you haven't completed the [PD survey](#), don't forget to do so by August 1. It takes only 10-15 minutes of your time and will greatly assist KYAE in planning professional development for adult educators. You'll be joining almost 400 of your colleagues who have already responded!

New contract for GED scoring

As announced by e-mail on July 11, KYAE has a new contract for GED scoring. More information about helping students set up accounts for GED testing is available on the [KYAE Web site](#). Student accounts allow online completion of the demographic form and student access to test scores within three business days.

2007-08 PD partners in place

KYAE contracts with three partners to provide a broad spectrum of professional development opportunities and resources for Kentucky adult educators. The 2007-08 agreements are designed to support you in our new learning goals. They are summarized below.

Adult Education Academy for Professional Development

Through Morehead State University, the Academy will work with KYAE to:

- Revise standards for instructors and program directors as well as an accompanying structure for evaluation and professional development.
- Develop a New Teacher Institute.
- Offer regional workshops on integrating assessment and instruction to support student learning, learning stations, ESL classroom, and ABE/GED classroom.
- Develop a program director's toolkit.

Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD)

Through the University of Kentucky, CCLD will work with KYAE to develop:

- Foundations to Reading and Writing Instruction in a workshop track and university track.
- Adult Diagnostic Reading Profile Workshops.
- Kentucky Writing Institute for Adult Educators.
- Online Study Circle for KAELI alumni.

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Kentucky Institute for Family Literacy (KIFL)

Through the National Center for Family Literacy, KIFL will work with KYAE to develop:

- Three to five family literacy models reflecting a range of local realities and ages served.
- Family Literacy Handbook.
- Instructional DVDs demonstrating best practices in parenting, PACT and component integration.
- Regional workshops based on local needs and requests.
- Foundations in Family Literacy workshops.
- Monthly PACT and parenting tip sheets.

BEST updates

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) provided the following instructions for programs using the BEST Literacy and BEST Plus assessments. If you are using these assessments, please familiarize yourself with the following information.

Raw scores attained on any form of BEST Literacy or the print-based version of BEST Plus must be converted to scale scores for comparability across forms for each test and for reporting purposes under the National Reporting System (NRS). Scale scores, not raw scores, are the true representation of students' proficiency and are the only way that scores can be compared and that student progress can be measured accurately.

Detailed instructions for obtaining a scale score for each assessment are available on the [KYAE Web site](#).

KYAE has also been notified that providers using BEST Plus on a computer with the Windows Vista operating system may encounter software problems. To work around the problems, CAL provided information available on the [KYAE Web site](#).

Financial aid tips

Adults headed to college will be interested in the following tips from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and The Student Loan People.

- **Look for local scholarships in your newspaper.** Community organizations and businesses may have scholarships reserved for local residents. Contact the sponsors for more information.
- **Check listings** in [Affording Higher Education](#) and [Adults Returning to School](#). These KHEAA publications list some 4,300 sources of student aid available to Kentuckians.
- **Find out how to reduce student loan costs.** Most financial aid packages include student loans. Learn as much as you can about fees, discounts and loan forgiveness benefits offered by lenders so you get the best deal. "How to save \$ if you have to borrow" on www.kheaa.com provides a comparison of the benefits offered by the major lenders in Kentucky.
- **Visit Web sites** with free information about college, financial aid and careers. www.GoHigherKY.org provides a free scholarship search and much more.
- **Apply, apply, apply.** The more financial aid for which you apply, the better your chances of getting enough to pay for college. Make sure you meet all deadlines.

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To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, visit www.GoHigherKy.org. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write to KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; or call (800) 928-8926, extension 7381. For information about low-cost student loans, visit www.studentloanpeople.com; write to The Student Loan People, P.O. Box 24328, Louisville, KY 40224-0328; or call (888) 678-4625.

The GED's academic value

A new study from the GED Testing Service, *Examinee and High School Senior Performance on the GED® Tests*, provides evidence of the academic value of the GED. According to the study, adults with GEDs have literacy scores about equal to those of adults with high school diplomas who did not go on to postsecondary education. GED holders displayed significantly better scores on prose, document and quantitative literacy tasks than did adults with less than a high school education, or just some high school.

National Commission on Adult Literacy

The National Commission on Adult Literacy has launched a [new Web site](#) with many adult education resources. Cheryl King, formerly of Kentucky Adult Education, is study director for the Commission, an independent panel of leaders from labor, business, government, education, literacy and philanthropy. Its formation was announced in July 2006 by Dollar General Corporation and the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy.

The Commission is examining the reach and outcomes of the current adult education and literacy system and studying changing demographic trends and the role and impact of adult education on the economy. KYAE Vice President Sarah Hindman Hawker and Jefferson County Adult Education Program staff made presentations to the Commission in March when it visited Louisville. In addition, Sarah is serving as one of several resource people to the Commission's study.

The Commission plans to recommend action strategies to establish adult education and literacy as a vital element of the national education system. Commission goals are to bring about legislative change in federal and state policy, increase business and philanthropic engagement in adult education and literacy, and raise public awareness that the adult learning system is integral to people's lives and our nation's future. The Commission will issue a report on its findings in mid-2008.

Travel update

According to the Kentucky Finance Cabinet, the mileage reimbursement rate for July 1-September 30, 2007, is 44 cents per mile. For more information, click on [travel policy](#).

KAACE wants your best recipes!

Providers have until July 25 to submit recipes for inclusion in a KAACE Cookbook. All proceeds from the cookbook will go to the KAACE Scholarship Fund. E-mail your recipes in 12 font size to Pam.Morgan@logan.kyschools.us. Categories are appetizers, breads, dips-sauces, soups, vegetables, entrees/meats and casseroles.

Valuable links

The [Dollar General Back-to-School Grants](#) provide funding to assist schools in meeting some of the financial challenges they face in implementing new programs or purchasing new equipment, materials or software for their school library or literacy program. The deadline for submission is August 10, 2007. [Click here to download the Back-to-School Grant application](#). Grants will be announced on September 28, 2007.

Apply for an [Ezra Jack Keats Foundation](#) \$500 mini-grant for a creative literacy activity.

The [UPS Foundation](#) provides grants to organizations, including literacy programs, to help improve communities struggling with problems such as homelessness, illiteracy, poverty and hunger.